

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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O P 141105Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1535  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY  
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 ATHENS 6498

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS SECDEF WASHDC FOR ISA AND OTHER ADDDEES AS  
APPROPRIATE

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR, MASS, GR, US  
SUBJ: U.S.-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT: AMBASSADOR'S  
DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT, FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHER OFFICIALS

REF: A) STATE 162276 (EXDIS)  
B) ATHENS 6374

1. DURING COURSE OF EACH OF HIS FAREWELL CALLS JULY 13 (ON PRESIDENT TSATSOS, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SECRETARY GENERAL THEODOROPOULOS AND THIRD POLITICAL DIRECTOR CHRYSOSPATHIS) AND AT LUNCH GIVEN IN HIS HONOR BY FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS, AMBASSADOR TOOK THE OCCASION TO EXPRESS HIS MOST INTENSE INTEREST IN RESOLVING REMAINING ISSUES IN DCA NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN NEXT FORTY-EIGHT HOURS AND OUR CONCERN THAT UNLESS THIS WAS DONE THERE WAS REAL DANGER THAT OPPORTUNITY TO FINALLY CONCLUDE THESE COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS DESIRED BY BOTH COUNTRIES MIGHT SLIP AWAY.

2. IN HIS TALK WITH PRESIDENT TSATSOS, THE AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED  
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THE GREAT DISTANCE WE HAD COME IN RECENT WEEKS IN RESOLVING THE ISSUES STILL IN DISPUTE WHEN THE LAST FORMAL NEGOTIATING ROUND RECESSED LAST OCTOBER. THE ONLY QUESTION STILL PREVENTING OUR CONCLUDING THESE AGREEMENTS IS THE GREEK NAVY'S DESIRE TO GET AS MUCH ASSISTANCE AS POSSIBLE FROM US IN ACQUIRING ITS OWN TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, AND AS PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS HAD TOLD AMBASSADOR, HE DID NOT INTEND TO ALLOW SUCH A MATTER TO STAND IN THE

WAY OF REACHING THIS OVERALL AGREEMENT. AMBASSADOR URGED TSATSOS TO DO ANYTHING HE COULD TO HELP CONCLUDE AGREEMENT WITHIN NEXT 48 HOURS.

3. TSATSOS AGREED ON IMPORTANCE OF REACHING SATISFACTORY SECURITY AGREEMENT QUICKLY AND HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DO SO BEFORE AMBASSADOR'S DEPARTURE. HE SUGGESTED AMBASSADOR MAKE SIMILAR APPEAL TO BITSIOS AND OTHERS WHO WERE CLOSER TO THESE NEGOTIATIONS THAN TSATSOS HIMSELF.

4. AMBASSADOR THEN CALLED SEPARATELY ON THEODOROPOULOS AND CHRYSOSPATHIS, ACCCOMPANIED BY DCM MILLS, AND MADE SIMILAR DEMARCHES. WITH DELEGATION HEAD CHRYSOSPATHIS, AMBASSADOR RECALLED IN DETAIL THE GENEROUS OVERALL ASSISTANCE WE HAD OFFERED GREECE UPON CONCLUSION OF DCA. THIS ASSISTANCE WILL ENABLE GREEK NAVY TO ACQUIRE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES IT WANTS DESPITE LEGAL RESTRICTIONS PREVENTING USG FROM GUARANTEEING THEIR COST. CHRYSOSPATHIS REPLIED THAT THE GUARANTEE WAS NO LONGER THE STICKING POINT. HIS MILITARY EXPERTS NOW WERE LOOKING CAREFULLY AT LIST OF EXCESS EQUIPMENT WE HAD OFFERED TO CLOSE NEA MAKRI/DCS ISSUE TO SEE WHETHER IT WOULD REALLY MEET GREEK NEEDS. AMBASSADOR RESPONDED WITH SOME HEAT THAT OUR OFFER OF THIS EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN ANOTHER EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE AND THAT WHETHER OR NOT THE EQUIPMENT WAS JUST WHAT THE GREEK NAVY DESIRED WAS INSUFFICIENT JUSTIFICATION FOR DELAYING CONCLUSION OF THESE COMPLEX NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WAS SO MUCH IN BOTH COUNTRIES' INTEREST. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED THE

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OPINION THAT CARAMANLIS WOULD EXPLODE IF HE KNEW THAT GREEK NAVY HAGGLING WAS DELAYING AN AGREEMENT WHICH HE WANTED COMPLETED RIGHT AWAY.

5. AT LUNCH WITH BITSIOS, AMBASSADOR TOOK HIM ASIDE AND RAISED THE SAME CONCERNs. FOREIGN MINISTER CALLED OVER CHRYSOSPATHIS AND ASKED WHY NEGOTIATIONS COULD NOT BE COMPLETED IMMEDIATELY SINCE AMBASSADOR HAD TOLD HIM ONLY ONE ISSUE REMAINED. BITSIOS SAID HE HAD DIRECTED WORKING GROUP CHAIRMAN MACHERITSAS TO HAVE A FULL REPORT ON THE COMPLETED NEGOTIATIONS ON HIS DESK EARLY MONDAY MORNING, JULY 18, SO HE COULD PRESENT IT TO A CABINET MEETING AT 11 O'CLOCK. IN RESPONSE TO BITSIOS' QUESTION WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO REACH AGREEMENT AT THE EXPERT LEVEL BY SATURDAY AS AMBASSADOR HAD URGED, CHRYSOSPATHIS SAID HIS WORKING GROUP WOULD HAVE A RESPONSE TO THE RECENT U.S. PROPOSAL BY THURSDAY NIGHT OR FRIDAY MORNING AT THE LATEST. THIS WOULD ENABLE THE TWO SIDES TO NEGOTIATE AND DRAFT TEXTS AT FRIDAY MEETING AND SUBMIT THEM TO WASHINGTON FOR APPROVAL, HOPEFULLY BY SATURDAY.

6. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR TOOK ALL OUT APPROACH WITH THESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AS PART OF OUR OVERALL EFFORT TO WRAP UP REMAINING ISSUES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCENARIO AND TIMETABLE OUTLINED IN REF B AND

APPROVED BY DEPT IN REF A. WE DO NOT EXCLUDE RESORTING TO ADDITIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO MOVE THESE NEGOTIATIONS TO A PROMPT CONCLUSION, BUT WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IT INADVISABLE AND UNTIMELY EVEN TO BROACH THIS POSSIBILITY WITH THE GOG UNTIL NECESSARY AND HOPE TO AVOID IT COMPLETELY. END COMMENT.

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY  
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

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7. IN ADDITION TO PUSHING HARD ON THE QUESTION OF CONCLUDING THESE NEGOTIATIONS BY SATURDAY, AMBASSADOR ALSO TOOK UP WITH GOG OFFICIALS IN THESE MEETINGS MANY OF THE ADDITIONAL POINTS RAISED IN REF A. IN RESPONSE TO THE AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION ABOUT HOW MUCH TIME THE GOG WOULD REQUIRE BETWEEN RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUES AND THE OPENING OF THE FORMAL PUBLIC ROUND FOR INITIALIZING, CHRYSOSPATHIS THOUGHT ABOUT FOUR OR FIVE DAYS WOULD BE SUFFICIENT AND THEREFORE THAT ROUND MIGHT BE HELD SOMEWHAT EARLIER THAN JULY 28 IF WE WISHED. ALTHOUGH THE GOG HAD NOT WORKED OUT THE DETAILS FOR THIS CONCLUDING ROUND, CHRYSOSPATHIS ASSUMED ATHENS WOULD BE THE VENUE AND THAT HE AND MILLS (WHO WILL THEN BE CHARGE) WOULD INITIAL AS CHIEFS OF THEIR DELEGATIONS.

8. AS FOR THE DRAFT COMMUNIQUE WHICH GOG HAS PROMISED US, CHRYSOSPATHIS SAID HE WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARING IT AND HAD SOME IDEAS IN MIND, BUT HAD NOT WORKED OUT THE TEXT PENDING RESOLUTION OF THE REMAINING ISSUES. HE INDICATED THAT A DRAFT WOULD BE READY IN A FEW DAYS.

9. AMBASSADOR ALSO MENTIONED NEED OF AN ANNOUNCEMENT, OR AT LEAST CLEAR GUIDANCE FOR USE IN CASE OF INQUIRY, SAYING THAT THE NEGOTIA-

TIONS WERE ABOUT TO RESUME AND THAT U.S. NEGOTIATORS WOULD BE IN ATHENS TO TAKE PART. THIS WOULD MAKE IT LESS LIKELY THAT OUR PRESS

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AND SECTIONS OF OUR PUBLIC MIGHT THINK WE WERE TRYING TO SNEAK SOMETHING OVER ON THEM. CHRYSOSPATHIS AGREED TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY AND LET US KNOW.

10. IN HIS DISCUSSION WITH BITSIOS, AMBASSADOR ASKED WHETHER ANY THOUGHT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO HOW SOON A FULL-POWERS SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENTS MIGHT TAKE PLACE AFTER INITIALING. BITSIOS REPLIED THAT GOG HAD NOT YET DECIDED THAT QUESTION BUT WOULD LOOK INTO IT AND LET US KNOW DURING THE FINAL ROUND. AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT IF GOG HAD IN MIND A FULL-POWERS SIGNING IN AUGUST OR PERHAPS A LITTLE LATER IT MIGHT BE COMBINED INTO A SINGLE ROUND WITH THE INITIALING. BITSIOS RESPONDED "NO, NO, NO", AND INSISTED THERE SHOULD BE AN INITIALING IN LATE JULY AS AGREED, WITH THE SIGNING TO TAKE PLACE LATER. COMMENT: BECAUSE OF BITSIOS' REACTION TO THIS SUGGESTION, AND BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IT IS SOUND STRATEGY TO NAIL DOWN ONE THING AT A TIME IN THESE SLIPPERY NEGOTIATIONS, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE IDEA OF COMBINING THE INITIALING AND SIGNING INTO ONE SESSION BE DROPPED. END COMMENT

11. AT DINNER HOSTED BY DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF JULY 13, DCM MADE SIMILAR PITCH TO AVEROFF, POINTING OUT THAT ONLY REMAINING OBSTACLE TO AGREEMENT WAS GREEK NAVY HAGGLING OVER NEA MAKRI/DCS. AVEROFF CALLED OVER CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS KONOFAOS, ASKED IF HE WERE FAMILIAR WITH DETAILS OF ISSUE, AND WHEN HE FOUND KONOFAOS WAS NOT ASKED DCM TO OUTLINE THE PROBLEM. AVEROFF THEN TOLD KONOFAOS THAT GOG COULD NOT LET A FEW MILLION DOLLARS STAND IN THE WAY OF AGREEMENT AND DIRECTED HIM TO TELL THE NAVY TO SETTLE THE ISSUE BY JULY 15. KONOFAOS AGREED TO DO SO. (COMMENT: WE SHALL SEE.)

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## Message Attributes

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